Chapter 5: Multiprocessors (Thread-Level Parallelism) – Part 2

Introduction

What is a parallel or multiprocessor system?

Why parallel architecture?

Performance potential

Flynn classification

Communication models

Architectures

Centralized shared memory

Distributed shared memory

Parallel programming

Synchronization

Memory consistency models
Memory Consistency Model - Motivation

Example shared-memory program

Initially all locations = 0

Processor 1       Processor 2
Data = 23          while (Flag != 1) {;}
Flag = 1            ... = Data

Execution (only shared-memory operations)

Processor 1       Processor 2
Write, Data, 23    Write, Flag, 1
Write, Flag, 1     Read, Flag, 1
Read, Data, ___    Read, Data, ___
Memory Consistency Model: Definition

Memory consistency model

Order in which memory operations will appear to execute
⇒ What value can a read return?
Affects ease-of-programming and performance
The Uniprocessor Model

Program text defines total order = *program order*

Uniprocessor model

Memory operations appear to execute one-at-a-time in program order

⇒ Read returns value of last write

BUT uniprocessor hardware

Overlap, reorder operations

Model maintained as long as

  maintain control and data dependences

⇒ Easy to use + high performance
Sequential consistency (SC) [Lamport]

Result of an execution appears as if

- All operations executed in some **sequential order** (i.e., atomically)
- Memory operations of each process in **program order**
Initially Flag1 = Flag2 = 0

P1
Flag1 = 1
if (Flag2 == 0)
    critical section

P2
Flag2 = 1
if (Flag1 == 0)
    critical section

Execution:

P1
(Operation, Location, Value)
Write, Flag1, 1

P2
(Operation, Location, Value)
Write, Flag2, 1

Read, Flag2, 0
Read, Flag1, ___
Understanding Program Order – Example 1

P1
Write, Flag1, 1
Read, Flag2, 0

P2
Write, Flag2, 1
Read, Flag1, 0

Can happen if

- Write buffers with read bypassing
- Overlap, reorder write followed by read in h/w or compiler
- Allocate Flag1 or Flag2 in registers
Understanding Program Order - Example 2

Initially $A = \text{Flag} = 0$

P1
A = 23;
Flag = 1;

P1
Write, A, 23
Write, Flag, 1

P2
while (Flag != 1) {};
...
= A;

P2
Read, Flag, 0

Read, Flag, 1
Read, A, _____
Understanding Program Order: Summary

SC limits program order relaxation:

- Write → Read
- Write → Write
- Read → Read, Write
A mechanism needed to propagate a write to other copies

⇒ Cache coherence protocol
Cache Coherence Protocols

How to propagate write?

*Invalidated* -- Remove old copies from other caches

*Update* -- Update old copies in other caches to new values
Understanding Atomicity - Example 1

Initially $A = B = C = 0$

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>P1</th>
<th>P2</th>
<th>P3</th>
<th>P4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$A = 1$;</td>
<td>$A = 2$;</td>
<td>while $(B != 1)$ {};</td>
<td>while $(B != 1)$ {};</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$B = 1$;</td>
<td>$C = 1$;</td>
<td>while $(C != 1)$ {};</td>
<td>while $(C != 1)$ {};</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>tmp1 = A;</td>
<td>tmp2 = A;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Initially $A = B = C = 0$

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>P1</th>
<th>P2</th>
<th>P3</th>
<th>P4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$A = 1;$</td>
<td>$A = 2;$</td>
<td>while $(B != 1)$ {}</td>
<td>while $(B != 1)$ {}</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$B = 1;$</td>
<td>$C = 1;$</td>
<td>while $(C != 1)$ {}</td>
<td>while $(C != 1)$ {}</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>tmp1 = A; $\times$</td>
<td>tmp2 = A; $\times$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Can happen if updates of $A$ reach P3 and P4 in different order.

Coherence protocol must serialize writes to same location

(Writes to same location should be seen in same order by all)
**Understanding Atomicity - Example 2**

*Initially A = B = 0*

P1

A = 1

while (A != 1) ;

B = 1;

P2

while (B != 1) ;

tmp = A

P3

P1

Write, A, 1

P2

Read, A, 1

Read, B, 1

Write, B, 1

P3

Read, B, 1

Read, A, 0

Can happen if read returns new value before all copies see it
SC Summary

SC limits

Program order relaxation:
  - Write → Read
  - Write → Write
  - Read → Read, Write

When a processor can read the value of a write
Unserialized writes to the same location

Alternative

(1) Aggressive hardware techniques proposed to get SC w/o penalty using speculation and prefetching
   But compilers still limited by SC
(2) Give up sequential consistency
   Use relaxed models
Classification for Relaxed Models

Typically described as system optimizations - system-centric

Optimizations

Program order relaxation:

Write $\rightarrow$ Read
Write $\rightarrow$ Write
Read $\rightarrow$ Read, Write
Read others’ write early
Read own write early

All models provide safety net

All models maintain uniprocessor data and control dependences, write serialization
## Some System-Centric Models

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Relaxation:</th>
<th>$W \rightarrow R$ Order</th>
<th>$W \rightarrow W$ Order</th>
<th>$R \rightarrow RW$ Order</th>
<th>Read Others’ Write Early</th>
<th>Read Own Write Early</th>
<th>Safety Net</th>
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<td></td>
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<td>serialization instructions</td>
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<td>RMW</td>
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<td>✓</td>
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<td>synchronization</td>
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<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>release, acquire, nsync, RMW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>✓</td>
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<td>✓</td>
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<td>MB, WMB</td>
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<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>various MEMBARs</td>
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<tr>
<td>PowerPC</td>
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<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>SYNC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
System-Centric Models: Assessment

System-centric models provide higher performance than SC

BUT 3P criteria

Programmability?
Lost intuitive interface of SC

Portability?
Many different models

Performance?
Can we do better?

Need a higher level of abstraction
An Alternate Programmer-Centric View

One source of consensus

Programmers need SC to reason about programs

But SC not practical today

How about the next best thing…
A Programmer-Centric View

Specify memory model as a contract
  System gives sequential consistency
  IF programmer obeys certain rules

+ Programmability
+ Performance
+ Portability
Different operations have different semantics

P1

A = 23;
B = 37;
Flag = 1;

P2

while (Flag != 1) {
   ...
   ...
   ...
}

... = B;
... = A;

Flag = Synchronization; A, B = Data

Can reorder data operations

Distinguish data and synchronization

Need to

- Characterize data / synchronization
- Prove characterization allows optimizations w/o violating SC
Data-Race-Free-0: Some Definitions

Two operations conflict if

- Access same location
- At least one is a write
(Consider SC executions ⇒ global total order)

Two conflicting operations race if

– From different processors
– Execute one after another (consecutively)

P1
Write, A, 23
Write, B, 37
Write, Flag, 1

P2
Read, Flag, 0
Read, Flag, 1
Read, B, ___
Read, A, ___

Races usually “synchronization,” others “data”

Can optimize operations that never race
**Data-Race-Free-0 (DRF0) Definition**

Data-Race-Free-0 Program

All accesses distinguished as either synchronization or data

All races distinguished as synchronization

(in any SC execution)

Data-Race-Free-0 Model

Guarantees SC to data-race-free-0 programs

It is widely accepted that data races make programs hard to debug independent of memory model (even with SC)
Distinguishing/Labeling Memory Operations

Need to distinguish/label operations at all levels

- High-level language
- Hardware

Compiler must translate language label to hardware label

Java: volatiles, synchronized

C++: atomics

Hardware: fences inserted before/after synchronization
**Data-Race-Free Summary**

The idea
- Programmer writes data-race-free programs
- System gives SC

For programmer
- Reason with SC
- Enhanced portability

For hardware and compiler
- More flexibility

Finally, convergence on hardware and software sides
  (BUT still many problems…)